ABSTRACT

A cash-equivalent card-based purchasing system and
its method of operation, in which an information processing
computer has a plurality of records stored in an associated
storage device, each record including a unique cash-
equivalent card number linked to a card value. A cash-
equivalent card is provided to a user, the cash-equivalent
card having encoded thereon one of the cash-equivalent card
numbers stored in the storage device, the cash-equivalent
card provided in exchange for consideration equivalent to at
least the value linked to the cash-equivalent card number
encoded thereon. Neither the cash-equivalent card nor the
storage device has any information regarding the identity of
the user.